

AMENDED SHEET

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A coolant for fuel cells that is used to cool down fuel cells, comprising:

5 a water-containing base material; and
a rust-preventive additive that functions to keep an electric conductivity of said coolant for fuel cells at a low level and to maintain a hydrogen ion exponent of said coolant for fuel cells in a substantially neutral level.

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2. (Amended) A coolant for fuel cells in accordance with claim 1, wherein the base material is a solution mixture containing a glycol.

15 3. (Amended) A coolant for fuel cells in accordance with either one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the rust-preventive additive includes at least one of an alkalescent additive and an acidulous additive.

20 4. (Amended) A coolant for fuel cells in accordance with either one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the rust-preventive additive includes an alkaline additive and an acidic additive.

SUB A 5. (Amended) A coolant for fuel cells in accordance with claim 4, wherein the alkaline additive is an ethanolamine series.

25 6. (Amended) A coolant for fuel cells in accordance with claim 5, wherein the ethanolamine series includes triethanolamine, diethanolamine, and monoethanolamine.

30 7. (Amended) A coolant for fuel cells in accordance with any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the acidic additive is selected out of the group

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consisting of triazole compounds, phosphoric acid compounds, and organophosphoric acid compounds.

8. (Amended) A coolant for fuel cells in accordance with any one of
5 claims 1 to 7, wherein the rust-preventive additive causes said coolant for
fuel cells to have a hydrogen ion exponent of about 6 to 9.

9. (Amended) A coolant for fuel cells in accordance with any one of
claims 1 to 8, wherein the rust-preventive additive causes said coolant for
10 fuel cells to have a low electric conductivity of less than about 100 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$.

10. (Amended) A coolant for fuel cells in accordance with any one
of claims 1 to 9, wherein the rust-preventive additive especially has
rust-preventive performance against aluminum material.

SUB 62
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11. A coolant in accordance with claim 1, wherein the
rust-preventive additive is a nonionic series substance.

12. A coolant in accordance with claim 11, wherein the nonionic
20 series substance includes at least one of a saccharide and a nonionic
surfactant.

13. A coolant in accordance with either one of claims 11 and 12,
said coolant is decontaminated by a coolant decontamination system
25 using either one of an ion exchange resin and a chelating resin.

14. A coolant in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 13, said
coolant has undergone deoxidization.

30 15. A method of enclosing a coolant in accordance with any one of

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claims 1 to 13 in a cooling circuit for a stack of fuel cells, said method comprising the steps of:

deoxidizing said coolant; and

enclosing said deoxidized coolant with an inert gas in said cooling circuit.

16. A cooling system for a stack of fuel cells, said cooling system
5 comprising:

a coolant in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 13; and
a cooling circuit in which said coolant and an inert gas are enclosed.

Sys
17. A method of decontaminating a coolant, said method
10 comprising the steps of:

preparing a water-containing base material;
preparing a rust-preventive additive that functions to keep an
electric conductivity of said coolant at a low level and to maintain a
hydrogen ion exponent of said coolant in a substantially neutral level; and
15 removing deteriorating substances from a solution mixture of the
base material and the rust-preventive additive with either one of an ion
exchange resin and a chelating resin.